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HISTORY
OF THE *Bonnes*
CITY OF ADRIAN,
AND THE SETTLEMENT OF
LENAWEE COUNTY,

FROM THE YEAR 1824 TO THE PRESENT TIME. DETAILS OF ALL THE IMPORTANT
EVENTS, GIVING DATES AND GRAPHIC STATEMENTS.

ALSO
A COMPLETE COMPILATION
OF THE
PRESENT MOST IMPORTANT INTERESTS OF THE CITY.

ADRIAN :
LENAWEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN,
1874.

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Cor. Main and Maumee Sts., Adrian, Mich.

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ADRIAN, Sept. 25, 1874.

CRANE & LIVESAY.

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*Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1874, by William A. Whitney, in the office of the Librarian
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Compiled and Arranged by,
RICHARD I. BONNER
ADRIAN, MICH.

ADRIAN, MICH:
PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DAILY PRESS,
1874.

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Shirting, Flannels, Blankets, Tickings,

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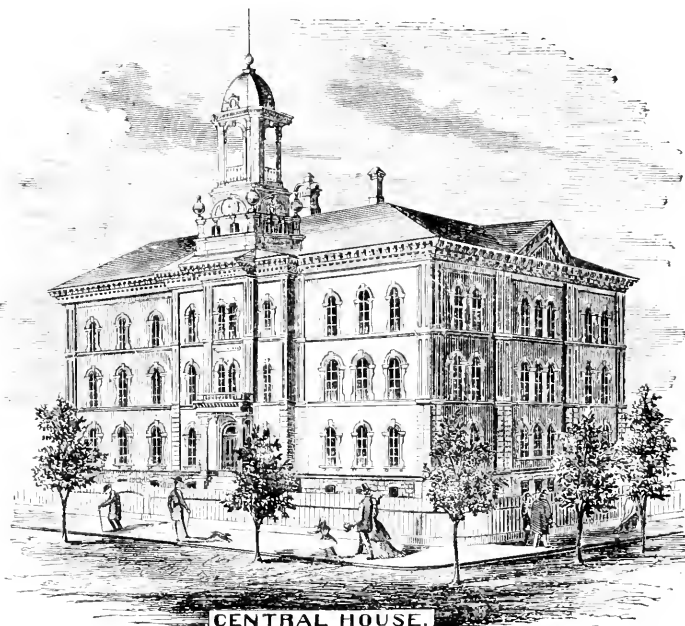
ADRIAN, MICH.

P R E F A C E .

N presenting this Work to the Public, it is our intention to give as correct a history as possible of Adrian, and Lenawee County from its earliest settlement up to the present time. At the same time we propose to further add to its value by giving a complete list of the important business interests of the city in the form of Business Cards and Advertisements, which will be found of great importance and convenience to every citizen of Lenawee County.

Usefulness rather than any other object, has been our aim in the preparation of this Book, and as it is intended for gratuitous circulation, we believe it will prove a work of great benefit and importance to the community.

Besides the very interesting and valuable statistics and sketches of the early settlement and progress of the city and county, which will be highly prized and treasured by a majority of our citizens, the business notices will also be found of great importance, as an index to the best and most reliable dealers in all the commodities in which the community may be in want. It will be found a complete reflex of our important business interests, as we have been careful in our compilation to solicit only the best and most reliable firms and business men.



OUR SCHOOL PRIVILIGES.


THE above cut is an accurate picture of our Central School Building. This is, without doubt, the finest Union School building in Michigan, and was built at a cost of about \$100,000. The building contains more than 1,000,000 brick, beside the large amount of stone used in its construction, and is supplied with all the most modern and approved apparatus for heating, ventilation, etc.; while the seats, desks and furniture are the most comfortable and best in use. We have no hesitancy in saying that our Union School stands at the head of all similar schools in the West, the graduates being admitted into the University without question or examination. Besides the Central building, we have four large brick school buildings located in the different wards of the city, for the accommodation of pupils. The number of school children in the city between the ages of five and twenty years, is something over 2,900. The School Library contains 1,400 volumes.

The Adrian College is also a thriving institution, with a Faculty equal to any in the West. The buildings, four in number, are all of brick, very large and commodious, and perfectly adapted to the purpose. They are located on a most commanding eminence in the west city limits, overlooking the entire city. No better or healthier locality can be found in Michigan.

Persons having children to educate can do no better than come to Adrian for that purpose, as we possess all the advantages that any person could wish for. The very best of schools of all kinds, the healthiest city in the West, fine churches of all denominations, and as intelligent, thrifty and law abiding citizens as can be found.

ADRIAN; ITS VERY EARLIEST HISTORY.

The following Facts, Dates, Reminiscences and Events, we have gathered from the very oldest Settlers in the County, some of whom have written their recollections for publication. We believe these statements are as reliable as can now be had of the very earliest days of the settlement of Leavenue County:

EPTEMBER 7th, 1825, Addison J. Comstock purchased of the United States, 480 acres of land on which the greater part of Adrian now stands. Mr. Comstock afterwards returned to the State of New York, and was married to Miss Sarah S. Dean, February 14th, 1826, when the same spring he returned to Michigan with his wife, and stopped at the Valley with his father, until he could build a log house, on the same ground where Mrs. Chloe Jones now lives, on the bank of the river. He also built another log house for his hired man, John Gifford, which was located, unfortunately, in the street, directly in front of where the Gibson House now stands.

June 28th, 1826, Mr. John Gifford purchased from the United States eighty acres of land, lying in the present Second Ward. Mr. Gifford, with his family, moved into the house built for him, by Mr. Comstock, on the 10th day of August, 1826. A few days latter Mr. Comstock and wife occupied their new house; hence it is that Mrs. Gifford claims to be the first female resident of Adrian, which is true by a few days. Mrs. Gifford is now living in St. Joseph County, this State. Her husband died in Adrian about as early as 1829 or '30.

December 26th, 1826, Elias Dennis purchased of the United States the eighty acres of land known for a long time as the Dennis property, and at a later date sold by the heirs to L. G. and A. S. Berry, who platted the same, and it is now known as L. G. and A. S. Berry's Southern Addition to Adrian. This same year Mr. A. J. Comstock built a saw mill near the one now owned by Mrs. Mandeville.

Noah Norton came to Michigan in the employ of Darius Comstock, in the year 1826, and stopped at the Valley. In the year 1827 he came to what is now Adrian, and built a house on land now owned by the Wells estate, just east of the Gibson House. The only one of the family now left in this vicinity is Mrs. George Ward,—the old gentleman having emigrated to California where he died.

FIRST ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICERS.

At a township meeting, held at Darius Comstock's, in the township of Logan, County of Lenawee, and Territory of Michigan, on the twenty-eighth day of May, A. D 1827, pursuant to the act, the following persons were elected for township officers:—

Elias Dennis, for Moderator of said meeting; Addison J. Comstock, for Township Clerk; Darius Comstock, for Supervisor; Noah Norton, Warner Aylsworth, and Cornelius A. Stout, Commissioners of Highways; Patrick Hamilton, Milo Comstock, and Abram West, Assessors; Patrick Hamilton and Abram West, Overseers of the Poor.

The first child born in Adrian was Leander Comstock, son of Addison J. and Sarah S. Comstock, born August 9th, 1827.

The first death in the place was Leander Comstock, October 8th, 1827, a son of Addison J. and Sarah S. Comstock, and was the first buried in what is now known as the old burying ground. The second death was Mrs. Elias Dennis, in the spring of 1828, and the third was John Gifford, buried in the same grounds.

October 23d, 1827, James Whitney purchased four hundred acres of land of the United States, on the west side of the river, and returned to Orleans county, New York, to close up his business, with the intention of moving to Michigan the next year.

SECOND ELECTION.

The following is a copy of the proceedings of an election, held at the house of Darius Comstock, on the first Monday of November, 1827:—

At an election held in the town of Logan, for the purpose of choosing members for the Legislative Council, held November 5th, 1827, the following votes were given:—

For Darius Comstock.....	22
“ Walcutt Lawrence.....	24
“ Laurent Durocher.....	15
“ Peter P. Ferry.....	10

PATRICK HAMILTON,
ABRAM WEST,
A. J. COMSTOCK,

Inspectors of Election.

On the thirty-first day of March, 1828, Addison J. Comstock laid out, platted, and recorded the original plat of the village of Adrian, as follows:—

I, Addison J. Comstock, do hereby give, grant, and convey the land represented in the within town plat, for streets and other public uses, to the people of the county of Lenawee, to be by them held for the uses and purposes therein named and expressed, agreeable to the statute of the Territory of Michigan, approved April 12th, 1827, entitled “An act to provide for the recording of town plats,” and for no other purposes.

Signed and sealed this thirty-first day of March, in the year eighteen hundred and twenty-eight.

[L. S.]

ADDISON J. COMSTOCK,

I, Caleb N. Ormsby, do certify that on this thirty-first day of March, 1828, personally came before me the above named Addison J. Comstock, and acknowledged that he executed the above for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

C. N. ORMSBY, J. Peace,

A true registry and record, entered Tuesday, the first day of April, A. D, 1828, at eleven o'clock A. M.

GEO. SPAFFORD, Register of Probate.

This plat contained forty-nine village lots, commencing near the river, and running east as far as village lot 24, on which William A. Whitney now resides. The street from Main street to the river was called St. Joseph street, and has never been legally changed, and the street east from Main street was called Maumee street.

The village of Adrian was named by Mrs. A. J. Comstock, after a Roman Emperor.

The Rev. John James delivered the first sermon in Adrian, at the house of Noah Norton, in 1827.

THIRD ELECTION.

At the annual town meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Logan held at the house of Addison J. Comstock on the 7th day of April, A. D. 1828, pursuant to the act, the following persons were elected for town officers:—

David Bixby, Moderator of said meeting; Durin Comstock for Supervisor; Addison J. Comstock Town Clerk; P. Hamilton, A. West, E. Dennis, for Assessors; C. A. Stout, W. Aylsworth, N. Norton, Commissioners of Highways; Allen B. Chalfee for Collector; A. B. Chalfee for Constable; Joseph Pratt and Lyman Peas for Overseers of the Poor; J. Gilford, Nathan Peltion and Nathan Comstock for Fence Viewers; David Bixby for Overseer of Highways for District No. 1; Lyman Peas for Overseer of District No. 2.

[Signed,]
DAVID BIXBY, Moderator,
A. J. COMSTOCK, Town Clerk.

Also the following votes were given for County Officers:—Addison J. Comstock received twenty-one votes for the office of County Treasurer, Noah Norton received eighteen votes for Coroner.

LOGAN, April 7th, 1828.

Noah Norton, Warren Aylsworth, Road Commissioners, and Anthony McKey, Surveyor, laid out and established about fourteen roads, from November 26th, 1827, to December 11th, 1828.

The first Doctor who settled in Adrian was Caleb N. Ormsby, who came in the spring of 1828.

The first brick made in Adrian was made this year by Noah Norton.

June, 1828, James Whitney returned to Adrian with his family and immediately built a log house on his farm which he had purchased the year before, and directly where H. V. Hart, Esq., now resides. His farm was bounded on the north by what is now known as the Tabor farm, on the south by section line running east and west through the centre of Adrian College, on the east by Barton Kent's east line, where he now lives and on the west by land of Nathaniel Raymond. The original farm was owned by Mr. Whitney until 1833, when he being desirous of removing to a new country, and having cleared up about two hundred acres of the heaviest timbered land in the country, sold his farm which has since been known as the Rowley, Scott, or Winans and Underwood farms, and all east of Scott street extending to Burton Kent's east line, where he now lives, which now is pretty well covered with buildings and seems to be the most growing part of the City of Adrian. The north half of the college building stands on the old farm.

The 4th of July, 1828, was the first celebration of the kind ever held in this village. It was truly a great day for Adrian. Large preparations were made, and at an early hour the people began to assemble around the stand, erected for the occasion, under a white oak tree nearly where W. S. Wilcox's store now stands, amid the roar of an anvil, until it was estimated that from thirty to forty persons had arrived, when Addison J. Comstock read the Declaration of Independence and Dr. C. N. Ormsby delivered the oration, after which the Marshal of the Day, Noah Norton, formed the procession and "proceeded through the principal streets" (through hazel brush) to the house of A. J. Comstock, where dinner had been prepared by Mrs. Comstock, assisted by the ladies of the village.

After dinner, regular and volunteer toasts were given. The writer of this remembers but one, which was given by the Marshal of the Day, Noah Norton, as follows:—

"O Tecumseh! Tecumseh! how often would we have gathered thy children together even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not."

It is unnecessary to say that this brought down the house. Bonfires, and no dance in the evening ended the festivities of the day. The Marshal was extremely fortunate in borrowing a pair of shoes of Mr. Eleazer

Baker, a boarder of his, otherwise he could not have performed the duties assigned him that day. As it was Mr. Baker could not celebrate.

In the summer of 1828, Isaac Dean, father-in-law of Addison J. Comstock, commenced building the Exchange, where the Lawrence House now stands, and in the fall of the same year his family came to Adrian.

FOURTH ELECTION.

At an annual town meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Logan, convened at the house of Isaac Dean, in the village of Adrian, on the sixth day of April, 1829, the following person were chosen for town officers for the ensuing year:—

Nathan Comstock, for Supervisor; Addison J. Comstock, Town Clerk; Patrick Hamilton, Abram West, Curren Bradish, Assessors; Cornelius A. Stout, Collector; Cornelius A. Stout, Nathan Pelton, Constables; Warner Aylsworth, Noah Norton, Nelson Bradish, Commissioners of Highways; Joseph Pratt, Darius Comstock, Overseers of the Poor; Overseers of Highways, District No. 1, Cornelius A. Stout; District No. 2, Isaac Dean; District No. 3, Daniel Walworth; District No. 4, Milo Comstock.

Voted at the same time that the Overseers of Highways be fence viewers for said town.

Voted that all bears be restrained from running at large in said town, under a penalty of two dollars,—(ought to be enforced now.) The following votes were given for county officers: Thomas Sackrider received thirty votes for Coroner; Addison J. Comstock received forty votes for Treasurer.

Attest:

A. J. COMSTOCK, Town Clerk.

This same year, 1829, Addison J. Comstock and his father-in-law, Mr. Isaac Dean, built the red grist mill. Before this the settlers were obliged to go to Tecumseh, Saline or Monroe to mill. The writer saw the first work the old red mill ever did.

June 2d, 1829, Abijah Russell purchased 35 and 60-100 acres of land of the United States, and in May, 1831, sold the same to Richard M. Lewis,—consideration eighty dollars. This land was known as the Lewis fraction for many years, until James Berry purchased it and cut it up into city property, a few years since. The land purchased by Messrs. Comstock, Gifford, Dennis and Whitney comprises nearly all on which Adrian now stands.

This year, 1829, a post-office was established in Adrian, A. J. Comstock, post-master. The first quarters receipts were nineteen cents.

The first school in Adrian was kept in the house of Noah Norton, by Miss Dorcas Dean, in the year 1828-9. It was select, for I was one of the scholars. The same year (1829) a good frame school house was built on the lands now owned by Daniel Welch, on the west side of Main street, on the bank opposite the tannery.

This same year Dr. E. Conant Winter, opened a dry goods store in the front room of Dr. Ormsby's house, which until recently stood on the south-west corner of Maumee and Winter streets, where Ira Metcalf's store now stands. He afterwards built a large wooden block opposite where the Lawrence House now stands. For many years he was a successful trader with the whites and Indians. The latter trade he monopolized until Phelps, the Indian trader, came, after which it was divided. Endorsing paper and the credit business was the cause of reverses; and not any lack of business capacity! Never have we had a man among us possessed of more energy and perseverance than Dr. Winter. Had he possessed the faculty of saying "no," he would have been the richest man in Lenawee County. Certainly no man had a better opportunity.

The same year Rufus Merriek opened a cabinet shop in Mr. Winters' block, and in 1832 built a shop of his own, known as the City Mill and Woolen Factory.

This year, 1830, the United States census was taken and in this district, Lenawee and Hillsdale County, by Musgrove Evans, assistant to the Marshal of Michigan, which will appear by the following schedule of "the whole number of persons within the county of Lenawee, Territory of Michigan, the 1st day of June, 1830." (It will be remembered that Hillsdale county was then included with Lenawee.) Mr. Evans' returns shows the whole number of inhabitants in this district to be as follows:—

Hillsdale.....	75
Tecumseh.....	771
Logan.....	500
Blissfield.....	145
Total.....	1,491

The following is a complete list of names of the F. F.'s, or heads of families of Logan district, which included several townships as returned by Musgrove Evans, Assistant Marshal, September 27th, 1830:

Darius Comstock, Catharine Fay, Alpheus Hill, Cornelius A. Stout, George Scott, Allen Chaffee, Jonathan Harnard, Elijah Brownell, Anson Howell, Samuel Todd, Cary Rogers, James Whitney, John Wood, Pliney Field, Addison J. Comstock, Charles Morris, Hannah Gifford, Robert Smith, Josiah Shumway, Patrick Hamilton, John Walsworth, Daniel Smith, Milo Comstock, D. Torrey, Davis D. Bennett, John Powers, Anson Jackson, Lyman Pease, Silas Simmons, Lewis Nickerson, Nelson Bradish, William Edmonds, Curren Bradish, Levi Shumway, Daniel Gleason, Samuel Davis, Stephen Fitch, Aaron S. Baker, William Foster, Elias Dennis, Nathan Pelton, Turner Stetson, William Jackson, John Arnold, Nathan Comstock, Betsy Mapes, Joseph Pratt, Abram West, Thomas Sackrider, Daniel Odell, William H. Rowe, Moses Bugby, Samuel Weldon, Jeremiah Stone, David Wiley, Noah Norton, Asher Stevens, Samuel Burton, John Comstock, Joseph Beals, John Murphy, Samuel S. L. Maples, David Bixby, Charles Haviland, Benjamin Mather, John Chapman, Jacob Brown, Jacob Jackson, Job S. Comstock, Elijah Johnson, Samuel Carpenter, Cassander Peters, William Brooks, Josiah Baker, Seth Lammon, N. W. Cole, Renben Davis, John Fitch, Daniel Walsworth, Nehemiah Bassett, Ephraim Dunbar, Isaac Dean, C. N. Ormsby.

Eighty-three noble and kind-hearted men and women, bold adventurers in a new territory, generous-hearted to a fault. Not one we believe, out of the number is now living within the city limits. Over sixty are dead, leaving less than twenty living. Some are in this county, while others have emigrated from it. To undertake to say which of those eighty-three men performed their part best, would be a difficult task. It is enough to say that all worked to make it pleasant for each new settler, and although many of them are dead they still live in the hearts of those who knew them.

In the fall of 1830 Isaac French came to Adrian; his first purchase was lots thirteen, fifteen, and thirty-four, on the original plat. He built a hotel on lots thirteen and fifteen, which he kept successfully until 1836, when he sold to Pomeroy Stone. This is the corner now occupied by Crane & Livesay and others.

In the year 1831 Mr. Turner Stetson built the house now known as the Gibson House. In those days it was the custom to give each building, after the frame was up, a name. The name given to this building by Elias Dennis, father of David B. Dennis, now of Coldwater, was "The Key to Adrian."

New settlers were occasionally arriving, some with families and others without. When a new house was raised anywhere in the neighborhood, all turned out to assist. At one time, when nearly every man was absent

from the place, a large number of Indians made their appearance in our streets, which caused much alarm among the ladies and children, for the reason that the Indians got gloriously drunk, and made the place hideous by their yells. No serious damage was done, however.

Dr. Bebee came to Adrian this year, had a successful practice in his profession for about a year, caught the small pox while attending the family of Jacob Brown, and died with it in the summer of 1832. He was a young man of fine ability, and his death cast a gloom over all who knew him. He was the second physician who settled in Adrian.

The same year Mr. Joseph H. Cleveland opened a store in a building standing between the Gibson House and the river.

The year 1832 was an exciting year for Adrian. This was the year of the Black Hawk War, which gave us great alarm, especially when an Indian made his appearance in the village. Rumors were rife that large numbers of Indians were collecting in the woods, and that a general war was at hand. Nothing was talked of except battles and defeat, and scalping of white men, women and children. Ask an Indian any questions about it and he knew nothing. This only had the effect to alarm the people still more, who supposed they did know but came in occasionally as spies. They were questioned so much when they did make their appearance that they actually became alarmed themselves. The Indians were as innocent as babes, but the trouble was the white settlers had lost confidence. It was but a short time before the able bodied men were called upon to shoulder their rifles to defend their families from the bloody tomahawk of the Indian. Then came the time that tried men's knees. Then it was that such men as Captain Charles M. McKenzie was appreciated in Adrian, while cowards and lovers wept like babies, he was one of the first to shoulder his rifle. But it is not our purpose to give a history of the Black Hawk War. We would leave that to Capt. McKenzie, were he alive, or some of his brave comrades that filled the big tree with bullets, at the battle of Coldwater. This war and the cholera of that year, were about as much as Adrian could stand. The nearest case of cholera was in Detroit, and the nearest hostile Indian to Adrian was the Mississippi river.

Captain Charles M. McKenzie settled in Adrian in the spring of 1832. He commenced making brick on the farm of Captain James Whitney, boarded with Isaac French, and lodged with his men in Mr. Whitney's barn. Mr. McKenzie died November 21st. 1871, aged 71 years.

November 22d, 1832, Dr. Parley J. Spaulding came to Adrian. This was justly considered an acquisition to the place, as time has proven. The Doctor still lives, to enjoy the fruits of his hard earnings on the lot he purchased the 25th of February, 1833. He is the only person who lives on the original plat who purchased his lot direct from Addison J. Comstock. He was the third doctor who settled in Adrian, and has always enjoyed the respect of the citizens, and will while he lives. He has held prominent positions, such as Register of Deeds, Mayor of our City, and was at one time a prominent candidate for Congress, and was only defeated by a division in his own party. He is a true Democrat, "long may he live."

During the year 1832 the Presbyterian Church Society built the first church in the village. It was located on Church street, where it still can be seen.

In 1833 Allen Hutchins and Joseph Chittenden, Jr., came to Adrian. They were young men, lawyers by profession. Hutchins purchased the five acres of land of James Whitney, now owned by Redfield &

Kimball, where stand those beautiful oaks in front. (The writer of this helped cut off the tops of those trees forty-three years ago.) Mr. Hutchins held this property until he became a defaulter to the United States, when it was confiscated, sold, and purchased by the present owners. Mr. Hutchins has been dead many years.

Joseph Chittenden, Jr., was a young man of splendid talents, finely educated, and one of the most promising young men in the Territory. He married the daughter of the late Dr. Webb, and died October 6th, 1834,—ten months after his marriage. He was the brother of the Misses Chittendens, Olive and Mary Ann, also Mrs. Henry Hart.

The year 1834 was a sad one for Adrian, hardly a family escaped sickness. Our doctors were riding night and day. Many citizens died that year. Among them Mrs. Amelia Ann Ormsby, the wife of Dr. Ormsby. She died October 7th, 1834, the next day after Joseph Chittenden, Jr., died. The date on her tomb-stone in the old cemetery, where she is buried, is October 7th, 1835. This is a mistake; it should be October 7th, 1834. She was a noble woman. On her tomb stone is the following: "The record of her virtues is engraven upon the hearts of those who knew her." Her age was twenty-seven years.

Daniel Jones died September 4th, this same year. Elias Dennis, one of the oldest citizens, died this year also.

October 22d, 1834, R. W. Ingals commenced the publication of the *Lenawee Republican and Adrian Gazette*,—afterwards *Watch Tower*. This was the first paper published in Lenawee County.

In 1835, Ashel Finch, Jr., and Abel Whitney, both of whom had been engaged in the dry goods business, opened the first drug store in Adrian. It was located on lot number thirty, north side of Maumee street, and is now owned by John Kinzel, extending back about eighty feet.

May, 1835, Daniel D. Sinclair came to Adrian. He, also, has held important positions from time to time.

This year Elihu L. Clark located in Adrian. He opened a small dry goods store near the hotel of Isaac French, in a building built by Mr. French for a blacksmith shop. He has accumulated a large fortune, and lives to-day, supposed to be worth half a million.

The Baptist Church Society held their meetings, in 1835, in the upper room of the house now owned by William A. Whitney. William R. Powers taught a select school in the same room, in the same year.

In the fall of 1836, Dr. D. K. Underwood came to Adrian, and opened a drug store where John Kinzel's store now stands on Maumee street. He has done his share towards building up our city, amassed a large property, and lives to enjoy it.

It has occasionally been said that Mr. Comstock, the founder and proprietor of Adrian in an early day, charged extravagant prices for his village property which he held for sale. In answer to this I would refer the reader to the following sales of city property by Mr. Comstock, and their dates, and ask if this charge was true. To me it looks unfounded:—

December 19th, 1828, Mr. Comstock sold to Charles Sleeper lot No. 40, fronting four and a half rods on Main street, and nine rods on Maumee street, containing forty and a half square rods. Consideration \$100. This is the corner where the First National Bank now stands.

March 2d, 1830, he sold Mrs. Marian Stevens the property where Redfield & Kimball now reside, running from the tannery south as far as Walter Waipple's lot, lying between Main and South Winter streets, and containing 4 93-100 acres of land, for the consideration of thirty (30) dollars.

March 26th, 1831, Mr. Comstock sold to Isaac French lots thirteen and fifteen, fronting nine rods on Main street and nine rods on Maumee street which is the corner occupied by Crane & Livesay, and also lot number thirty-four, part of which is now owned and occupied by Wm. A. Whitney, Maumee street, all included in one deed. Consideration, seventy (70) dollars.

February 25, 1833, Mr. C. sold to Dr. P. J. Spaulding lot number thirty-two, on which the latter now lives, fronting five rods on Maumee street and fifteen rods deep; for the consideration of fifty (50) dollars.

In the year 1835, Mr. A. J. Comstock sold to Asahel Finch, Jr., and Abel Whitney village lot number thirty, on the north side of Maumee street, five rods front and nine deep, for the consideration of fifty (50) dollars.

But few understand the trials and perplexities of settling a new country, and what the old residents of Adrian had to contend with in its early settlement. The county seat of Lenawee County, being first established in Tecumseh, was the cause of much strife and opposition between the two rival villages, and the war was kept up until this year, when Tecumseh was compelled by an act of Legislature to yield to justice, and the county seat was removed to Adrian. Mr. Comstock, being more interested, probably did more towards accomplishing this object, than any other man.

The year 1836 the Erie & Kalamazoo railroad, which had been in progress for two years, was completed to Adrian, amid great rejoicing of the people. This opened a market long needed, the value of which can hardly be estimated. This road was one of the first built in the United States, and the first in Michigan. The day of its completion was a gala day for the citizens of Adrian.

For this enterprise Mr. A. J. Comstock, his father, Darius Comstock, George Crane, Joseph Gibbons and Dr. C. N. Ormsby, in connection with gentlemen from Toledo, deserve the gratitude of Adrian.

Adrian Lodge No. 8, I. O. O. F., was instituted March 6th, 1835, by R. W. P. G., B. F. Hall, and R. W. P. G., J. H. Mullett, of Michigan Lodge No. 1, when the following officers were installed: Daniel D. Sinclair, N. G.; Sebree Howard, V. G.; Charles Smith, S.; R. W. Ingals, T.

The first band in this place was organized in 1838, by an Englishman named William Tutten, from Utica, New York, and was called the "Adrian Brass Band." This band went to Fort Meigs in 1840 with the Lenawee County delegation, to attend the great Harrison mass meeting. At this time it was led by William C. Hunt, who now lives in the city. General Joseph W. Brown was in command of the Michigan delegation at this great meeting, and held an umbrella over General Harrison while he was speaking.

William Barnes built the first reservoir in the village in the summer of 1839, at a cost of \$141 33.

Alert Fire Company No. 1 was officially organized June 19th, 1841. Following are the names of the original members of the company: D. K. Underwood, Joseph H. Wood, Milo Weins, S. V. R. Smart, R. Merriek, W. S. Wilcox, S. W. Van Vosburg, J. J. Newell, Isaac Paulding, R. Smart, A. Barnard, Thomas S. Baker, Samuel Smith, C. R. Watson, Phi. Tabor, T. D. Ramsdell, Charles Ingersall, R. W. Ingals, James

Mills, J. H. Woodbury, E. H. Rice, W. M. Comstock, John Harkness, Charles W. Hunt. The machine was purchased from Lewis Selye, of Rochester, New York, at a cost of \$813.

Hook and Ladder Company was officially organized June 19th, 1841. Following are the names of the original members: A. W. Budlong, A. S. Berry, L. G. Berry, J. H. Chittenden, Joel Carpenter, Washington Harwood, Henry Hart, Horace Mason, N. L. P. Pierce, Charles Phillbrook, Clement Smith, Randall W. Smith. March 11th, 1842, the Village Council appropriated the sum of \$90 for the purchase of a truck for the use of the company. We also notice on the records that Henry Hart, who was then a Trustee, offered a resolution to purchase three axes for the use of the company. The truck was built by William C. Hunt.

Benjamin Anderson, D. K. Underwood, E. W. Fairfield, and Amos Biglow were the first Fire Wardens of the village, and were appointed December 17th, 1841. Carlisle Norwood was the first Chief Engineer.

The Adrian Guards, the first military company regularly equipped by the State in Lenawee County, was organized May 10th, 1842, by Daniel Hicks, who was elected Captain, which office he held until the year 1847, when he went to Mexico in command of a company. F. J. King was First Lieutenant, Edwin Comstock, Second Lieutenant, William Aldrich Orderly Sergeant. In 1843 George W. Hicks was elected Orderly, he being the best drill-master in the company. Charles M. Croswell was elected Captain after Captain Hicks, and held the office until the next annual election, when Frederick Hart was made Captain, which position he held up to April, 1861, with the exception of one year—1855—when Justice H. Bodwell was made Captain. We find in an old Detroit *Advertiser* an account of the first military encampment ever held in this place, which occurred on the 4th of July, 1843. The encampment consisted of the Brady Guards, of Detroit, the Monroe City Guards, the Toledo Guards, and the Adrian Guards. Pomeroy Stone was Quartermaster of the encampment. The narrator in the *Advertiser* says:

"I do not hesitate to pronounce the Adrian Guards the best drilled company of its age which can be found anywhere. Its members wore a neat uniform, and appeared full of the genuine military spirit. Captain Hicks, their commander, is a perfect gentleman. I would say the same of Captain Hill and Mundy, the first of the Toledo, the second of the Washtenaw Guards. The Toledo Guards have a beautiful uniform; the Washtenaw's one very similar to our own, except they wore black shoulder-knots and plumes. I cannot speak too highly of the soldierly and gentlemanly bearing of the men of each companies; we were taken by the hand by them all, and treated in a manner we never shall forget. The Sabbath was spent very appropriately, by a prompt attendance at the several churches to which the companies were assigned. The great day of days, the 4th of July, was ushered in amid the roar of cannon, the wild beating of drums, and vociferous cheering of thousands of iron-nerved men—every heart was full—all eyes beamed with a new lustre, and gladness and joy trembled on every tongue. Long before daylight the people from the country began to pour in, and by 10 o'clock, the time assigned for forming the procession, not less than 6,000 people were in Adrian."

Protection Fire Company No. 2 was organized in October, 1845. Perry B. Truax was the first Foreman, W. Huntington Smith, Assistant Foreman, and F. C. Beaman, Secretary. The engine arrived in December the same year, and cost \$990.

The first Masonic lodge organized in the village was "Adrian Lodge, No. 19," on July 28th, 1847, by E. Smith Lee, Grand Master of Michigan at that time. The original officers were, John Barber, W. Master; William Moore, S. W.; Warner Comstock, Jun. W.; Jonathan Berry, Treasurer; David Horton, Secretary; David Bixby, Sen. Deacon; William Talford, Jun. Deacon; Samuel Anderson, Tyler.

Oak Wood Cemetery was opened to the public for burial purposes in the summer of 1848.

Oscar Stevens, nephew of A. and William A. Whitney, was the first person buried there, July 31st, 1848, aged five years and two months. Isaac C. Dean died December 11th, 1867, aged 87 years. Abigail C. Dean, his wife, died in the same year, May 11th, aged 77 years. David Bixby died January 4th, 1865, aged 82 years.

Abram Truax died December 3d, 1862, aged 68 years. James Whitney died August 11th, 1851, aged 68 years and six months. Mrs. James Whitney died the same year, August 24th, aged 65 years and two months. Mrs. Ira Buck died March 25th, 1874, aged 70 years and three days. Mrs. W. S. Wilcox died February 11th, 1852, aged 27 years and six months. William B. Whitney died January 7th, 1858, aged 44 years. Mrs. Noah Norton died August 27th, 1857, aged 66 years. Judge Barber died April 15th, 1867, aged 75 years. Dr. E. C. Winter died December 11th, 1867, aged 65 years. Daniel A. Loomis died February 22d, 1868; Mr. Loomis was elected Mayor in April, 1862. Colonel L. L. Comstock was killed in battle near Knoxville, Tennessee, November 25th, 1863, in his 39th year. Addison J. Comstock died January 20th, 1867, aged 65 years and three months; he was the first Mayor elected under the city charter. Sarah S. Comstock, his wife, died November 10th, 1872, aged 67 years and two months. J. H. Bodwell died September 1st, 1864, aged 44 years. John D. Campbell died in Boston August 1st, 1863, aged 54 years. Mr. Campbell was elected Mayor in April, 1863. He was General Superintendent of the Michigan Southern & Northern Indiana Railroad. Colonel W. Huntington Smith was killed at the battle of Campbell's Station, Tennessee, November 16th, 1863, aged 40 years. Colonel D. A. Woodbury was killed at the battle of Malvern Hill, Virginia, July 1st, 1862, aged 38 years. Isaac French died May 2d, 1856, aged 60 years. S. P. Jermain, one of the founders of the *Michigan Expositor*, died in Chillicothe, Ohio, May 9th, 1868; his remains lie in Oakwood Cemetery. Alonzo F. Bixby died April 18th, 1870. The whole number of interments in Oak Wood Cemetery, from January 1st, 1850, to July 1st, 1874 is 2,314. There seems to be no record previous to January 1st, 1850. In 1864 there was the largest number of interments of any year in the history of the city; the number being 180.

The Adrian and Bean Creek Plank Road Company was organized on the 4th of May, 1848, with a capital stock of \$75,000, divided into 3,000 shares. The original charter was from this city to Bean Creek, but an extension was granted, and it was built as far as Gambleville, in Hillsdale County, where it intersected with the Chicago Turnpike. During the year the survey was made, the right of way purchased, and the contracts let for lumber and construction. The first plank of the road was laid in this city, in the spring of 1849. Commencing on Front street, opposite where the County Offices now stand, planks were laid up Main street to Maumee, and on Maumee street west to Addison, etc. A. J. Comstock was the first President, Henry Jones, Secretary, and E. L. Clark, Treasurer.

James Sword was elected President of the Village of Adrian in 1852, and made Mayor, by act of the Legislature, in January, 1853.

The Court House, with many valuable records, was destroyed by fire on the morning of March 14th, 1852.

The Adrian Gas Light Company was chartered by City Ordinance, June 18, 1855. The company consisted of Benajah Barker, H. P. Platt, George H. Wyman, L. C. Thayer. The Common Council that year was as follows: F. J. Buck, Mayor; Aldermen, L. P. Bowen, R. J. Bradley, E. P. Linnell, J. H. Cleveland, A. J. Dean, W. E. Kimball, F. R. Stebbins, W. S. Wilcox.

By a resolution of the Common Council, passed June 8th, 1858, it was resolved to lay down the present pavement, with the exception of Maiden Lane, which was done at a later date. There was quite a fight in the Council over the matter, and the resolution was finally passed by the casting vote of the Mayor. The Council

this year consisted of W. L. Greenly, Mayor; Aldermen, Chester Farmer, C. M. Croswell, E. A. Washburn, J. H. Kennedy, A. L. Millard, Chester Buck, Frederick Hart, E. P. Andrews.

The Steam Fire Department was organized on Friday, October 11th, 1867, consisting of two steamers, with attendant Hose Carts, and one Hook and Ladder Company. R. J. Bradley was appointed Chief Engineer, and James Redmond Assistant.

The Adrian Union School was organized in 1818-9, by the consolidation of the several school districts in the village. The first term or two was held in the old "Hanse School House" on Maumee street, where John Kinzel's two stores now stand. J. W. Southworth was the first Principal of the school. In the fall of 1849 the old American Hotel building was leased for school purposes, and was used until the Union School building was completed, which was in 1852. The first Director of the Union School Board was Henry Hart. The "Public Schools of the City of Adrian" were incorporated by act of Legislature March 31st, 1861. The old Central School building was destroyed by fire on the morning of August 10th, 1866. The present Central Building was erected in 1868.

The Daily and Weekly *Watchtower* ceased publication, after an existence of thirty-four years, on Saturday, September 9th, 1865. The office was sold at that time to William Humphrey, who, on the following Monday, September 11th, issued the *Daily Times*.

The State Fair was held in this city in 1865, commencing September 19th and continuing four days. It was also held here the following year.

The corner stone of the Masonic Temple was laid June 24, 1865, and the building was occupied the following year.

The first Lenawee County Fair was held in this city in September, 1849.

In the beginning of the winter of 1838 Silas Crane and Abel Whitney furnished the material for the superstructure for the first two miles of the M. S. R. R. west of the city of Monroe, and during the summer of '38 and the winter of '39 graded and built the road from the Leroy bridge to the crossing on South Main street, in this city.

The blinds on A. Whitney's house were the first on any house in this city, and the first in the south half of Lenawee County, and so far as wear is concerned, appear to be good for fifty years to come, having already been in use thirty-nine years.

Walter Whipple, Esq., of this city, furnishes us with an incident of early times, which we think worthy of a place in our work: "In August, 1828, I was at Darius Comstock's house, when he showed me a field of sixty acres in corn, which he assured me would harvest sixty bushels to the acre. Those who remember the year 1829, when credit was struck dead by the panic, when property could not be sold or debts collected at the East, can recall the sufferings endured by the immigrants who had paid their last dollar for lands, teams, improvements, and the expense of living the first year without crops to harvest, or any visible means of subsistence. During the fall of this year Dr. Patterson went to Mr. Comstock to purchase corn. Mr. Comstock refused to sell him the corn, telling him that he had money and a team, and that he could go to Monroe or Ohio and get all he wanted. Said he, 'I have many neighbors who have no cash, who will suffer unless they have corn.' Another man told me he wanted lumber to finish his house. The lumber was measured, but Darius' partner would not let the lumber go without the money. He told Darius of his trouble who told him to take as much lumber as he wanted, and bring him the bill. It was such traits of character as this that caused the early settlers of Adrian to gather around him. When he lay upon his last bed of sickness, he said to Dr. Webb, 'I have thought of this a great deal—I think I am not mistaken—I think I am right.'"

TECUMSEH:

IN the autumn of 1823, Musgrove Evans, Esq., a native of Pennsylvania, and belonging to the Society of Friends, left Jefferson County, in the State of New York, to explore the West, and, should fortune smile, to enjoy those smiles more near to the setting sun. On arriving at Detroit, he found some friends, and made the acquaintance of Austin E. Wing. Mr. Wing had been a resident in the Territory for several years—some six or seven. Of the comparative merits of its various localities, he was well qualified to judge. He at once suggested to Mr. Evans the Valley of the Raisin, as a region of special attraction, beautiful, rich and full of promise. After some explorations of other points, Mr. Evans was inclined to accept Mr. Wing's judgment in the matter, and resolved in the coming spring to investigate the claims of this new field. He immediately returned home to Jefferson County, New York, and, during the following winter, was actively engaged in efforts to interest and enlist his friends in his western enterprise. He was quite successful.

Early in the spring Mr. Evans, with his wife and five children, General J. W. Brown, his brother-in-law, E. F. Blood, Turner Stetson, Nathan Rathbone, and Peter Lowry, started together for Detroit. They passed up Lake Ontario, and Niagara River, to Black Rock. There they and some other gentlemen, from Buffalo, chartered the schooner Erie, the famed craft which subsequently went over the Falls of Niagara; and, ascending the Lake, arrived in Detroit on the last of April, 1824. Here the men left their families, and having chartered a Frenchman and pony, to carry their baggage, started into the woods on foot, and following an Indian trail, took a western course to Ypsilanti, thence to Saline, and thence onward still, until they struck the River Raisin, some little distance above the point where now stands the village of Clinton. Here, they discharged the Frenchman and his pony, and allowed them to return. They now took their provisions, etc., upon their backs, and pursued a south-westerly direction, till they reached Evans Creek, which they descended to the point of land on which the "Globe Mill" now stands.

At this place they encamped, and, for a week or more, were busily occupied in viewing the country, but more especially, the streams—the Raisin and Evans Creek—and the form of their banks, and the bordering valleys, the idea of obtaining a good water-power being a leading object of pursuit. It is proper to say here that Mr. Wing had been of great service to Mr. Evans and his co-adventurers, and, although no agreement of a binding character had been entered into, yet so much had passed between them as to authorize a mutual expectation that he, in some way, and to some extent, would aid the fortunes of their enterprise. Having this idea in view, from the time Mr. Evans took leave of him in Detroit, during the preceding autumn, and learning that immigrants were extensively exploring in Washtenaw County, and parts adjacent, and fearing that the advantages at the junctions of Evan Creek and the Raisin might be found, appreciated and snatched away, had the sagacity and prudence to enter the lands adjacent in his own name. These lands were the west part of Section twenty-seven and east part of Section twenty-eight and included the water-power in Brownville. Mr. Evans and his associates, having satisfied themselves that they had found if not the best point in the interior of the Territory, they had at least found a location worthy of their acceptance, resolved to secure it.

With this purpose, they gathered their effects and started for the "Land Office." On reaching Monroe they found Mr. Wing. Immediately Messrs. Wing, Evans & Brown entered into a formal co-partnership, and took up the north half of Section thirty-four. The adjacent lands were soon taken up by the companions of Mr. Evans, and adventurers from other places.

Messrs. Wing, Evans & Brown, having formed a co-partnership, and secured a location, deemed it important to their interests, if possible, to have it made the county seat. With a view to this, they delegated Mr. Brown to visit Governor Cass, at Detroit, and request him to nominate Commissioners to visit Tecumseh, and, if it should be deemed advisable, to designate it as the seat of justice for the county. The Governor treated the request with obliging consideration, and named Messrs. C. J. Laumon, Oliver Johnson, and one other gentleman that committee. The committee, in due time, entered upon their mission, examined the situation, and approved of it. On the last of June, 1824, the Legislature was in session, and the committee being present, made their report, which was accepted and adopted. In consideration of this enactment it was stipulated that, in laying out the grounds for a village, the Company, Wing, Evans & Brown, should set apart

for the public benefit, four squares; one for the court house and jail, one for a public promenade, one for a cemetery, and one for a military parade ground, and build a bridge across the River Raisin east of the village. The Company accepted the condition, and appropriated for the court house and jail a square on the north-east corner of Maumee and Chicago streets; for pleasure ground, a square on the south-east corner of Maumee and Chicago streets; for a cemetery, a square on the south-east corner of Ottawa and Killbuck streets; for a military parade ground, a square having Shawnee street on the north, Ottawa on the east, and, what is now styled Railroad street on the west. The bridge was also built.

On the first Monday in June, 1824, Mr. Evans and Peter Benson, with their families, left Monroe, and started for what had now become the "bright particular" gem of the Raisin Valley—Tecumseh.

After a difficult journey through a nearly pathless wilderness, and over the low and marshy grounds that intervened, they arrived at the place of their destiny on the following day, June 2d, 1824, about five o'clock in the afternoon. There being no means of crossing the Raisin, on the land now owned by Wing, Evans & Co., *i. e.* on the east side of what afterwards became the village plot, they passed round upon the north side of the river and encamped upon the land which Mr. Wing had purchased the fall or winter previous, at the point whereon now (1869) stands the cooper shop, a few rods north of the Brownville mill. Here Mr. Evans erected a log house, twenty feet square. It was without any floor, as there was no saw-mill nearer than Monroe, and covered with bark peeled from the trunks of elm trees. During the summer it had neither chimney nor fire place. For cooking purposes a fire was made upon the ground, the smoke, when the atmosphere was in repose ascended through a hole in the roof; at other times it went up or down, or here or there, as played the fitful winds. A bake-kettle supplied the place of an oven for several months, during which time Mrs. Evans prepared food for her husband and children, for the workmen in his employ, together with "goers and comers," amounting usually to from fifteen to twenty persons.

In the autumn Mr. Brown, wife, and five children arrived; also Mr. George Spafford and wife. A bedroom was added to the house, and an oven and chimney built, the oven standing out and some distance from the house. Here Mr. Evans, wife and five children, Mr. Brown, wife and five children, the youngest child of each family being a small infant, and Mr. Spafford and his wife, all domiciled during the winter of 1824-5.

During the summer of 1824 Mr. Evans, being a surveyor, laid out the village plot. It was laid out into squares of twenty-four rods each, and each square into eight lots, each lot being six by twelve rods—twelve rods north and south, and six rods east and west. The squares, so-called, set apart for the court house and public promenade being, in fact, but two one-half squares.

In the summer of 1825 Joseph W. Brown built a frame house on the corner lot, bounded on the north by Chicago street, and on the west by Maumee street. This was the first frame house erected in the county of Lenawee, and besides furnishing private apartments for the owner and his family, contained others also, which were opened for the entertainment of travelers, and other transient persons. At that time it was the first and only public house in the Territory west of Monroe.

In the same year, during the summer of 1825, a Mr. Knaggs, a Frenchman, from Monroe, purchased the lot on the south-west corner of Chicago and Maumee streets, and built a store which he opened, in part to aid the new settlers, but mainly for the purpose of driving bargains with the Indians. This enterprise proved, both directly and indirectly, of much benefit to the new settlers. They here found, at least to a limited extent, such commodities as, otherwise, they would have suffered seriously the want of, and, besides, it induced the Indians, still lingering in the neighboring woods, to come in and trade with the community. In 1826 Mr. Evans took the initial, and made some advances in the work of building a more comfortable abode for his family. It was completed, we believe, the following season, and, as in the case of Mr. Brown's before him, it became the comfortable abode of his family, and also a house of public entertainment. Many who there found shelter from the storm, relief from hunger and thirst, rest from weariness, with generous sympathy and soothing cordials when burning fever and death-like ague was upon them, took pleasure in after years in speaking of these things,—some long ago and forever silent, others still live, with tearful gratitude, to repeat the grateful story.

In 1827 Mr. Brown, whom we style General now, sold his house, on Maumee street, to James T. Bolland, went over to Brownville and built, of hewed logs, the house so long known as the "Peninsular House."

In the fall of 1824 the Company of Wing, Evans & Brown, resolved to build a saw mill. For such a mill the want was very great. The inhabitants were indeed few, but that few were in great want of lumber. Without it they could not construct shelters either for themselves or their stock. The frame of the mill was soon raised, the machinery got into position, the waiting waters let on, and the saw was playing, as though instinct with life, and actually felt that it was a "luxury to do good." Thus was completed the first saw mill in the County of Lenawee, and, no successor has ever found a warmer welcome.

Early in the spring of 1826, Wing, Evans & Brown resolved to build a grist mill. The frame was soon raised. And now for the stones—an item indeed, in a grist mill. French burrs were quite too costly for their limited means. It so happened that, about a mile and a half away, and a little north of east, in a district where a stone was one of the rarest things of nature, there was found an immense boulder—a large rock of pure granite. They were not geologists; hence they asked no questions about its origin, from whence

it came, or how it got there. Enough that it was there. They fell upon it in earnest. With drills and powder they soon split off two large slabs, each of which they wrought into stone of suitable size to answer their purpose. And, what was quite remarkable, the stone contained an element resembling clay-slate, which in working, crumbled out, leaving a surface not wholly unlike the genuine burr—millstone grit.

It is proper to add that this mill was able to grind about ten bushels of grain per hour; and for five or six years was the only grist mill in the interior of the Territory.

THE BLACK HAWK AND TOLEDO WARS.

The following is an extract from a speech by Dr. M. A. Patterson, before the Rasin Valley Historical Society, at Tecumseh, June 2d, 1868:—

"According to the law of the valley, every male settler was a voter, without being over particular respecting his age, provided he could handle an axe and was stout and strong. Our people had been too busy to pay much attention to politics. But there was one man who seemed to regard it as a solemn duty, on no account to be neglected, and for six years he annually voted himself in Justice of the Peace. We are not aware that he tried a single case during all this long period. Universal harmony and peace prevailed, and a rogue or a thief was unknown. But the new comers of 1834 were fresh from the political fields of the East, and believed in the principle of "rotation in office." At the next town election there came out of the woods of what are now known as the towns of Rasin, Ridgeway, Macon and Franklin, a body of strangers who had never been seen at our polls before, and to the no small indignation and astonishment of Squire Thomas Goodrich, our sole magistrate and Justice of the Peace for six years, without a case on his docket, a host of new men rotated him out of office, in order, as they said, to establish in this Valley a great political principle.

But our new friends had scarcely exercised the important privilege of the elective franchise a second time, indeed they were scarcely well established in their new homes until they were called upon, in common with the older settlers, to defend them, and perhaps to shed their blood in defense of their homes.

In May, 1832, Owen, the Indian Agent at Chicago, sent dispatch riders, with all possible haste, to Detroit, who, on the way, spread through our feeble settlement the startling intelligence that the Sac and the Fox Indians, under Black Hawk, were on the war-path, threatening to exterminate the whites from the Upper Mississippi to the lower lakes. The treacherous character of the American Indian is proverbial, and the danger of a union of the hostile western tribes, with the seemingly friendly Potawattonies, of Michigan, who were all around us, was by no means improbable. It was an alarming fact that within two or three days after the news of the hostile intention of the Sac and Fox Indians reached us, the Potawattonies suddenly disappeared. Not an Indian could be found in our vicinity or neighborhoods. Were they lurking in the dense forests of the valley waiting for orders to spring upon us with deadly intentions, or gone to new hunting or fishing grounds far beyond us? were questions often asked, but which no one could answer. Until the locality and designs of the missing Indians were ascertained, the first intimation of their intentions and presence might have been amid scenes that have been witnessed again and again on our Western frontier, by the glare of our burning dwellings at midnight, amid the shrieks of women and children, the groans of the dying, and the hellish war whoop of savages. At the bare possibility of such a fate, anxiety was depicted on the countenances of brave men, and there was not a mother in the settlement who did not fold her child still closer to her bosom.

Against a hostile union of the powerful western savages, each armed with a deadly rifle, and skilled in its use, the scattered settlements on the line from Detroit to Chicago were almost defenseless. And there was cause of alarm when it was known that the United States Agent had urged upon our Governor an immediate draft of the men of Michigan to check the advance of the Indians, until the regular government troops could be mustered on the frontier and hurled against them.

As soon as it was ascertained that the Potawattonies had left us for a gathering of their tribe in the St. Joseph Valley, and at a council of their chiefs and our Territorial authorities, seemed peacefully inclined, all apprehension of immediate danger from this quarter was removed. The alacrity then with which the Eighth Regiment, composed of citizens of this valley, marched to the relief of the settlements beyond us, when they had reason to expect a bloody contest, proved that our pioneers were of the right stock, and as ready to fight as to work, when occasion demanded an exhibition of their prowess.

The details of the Black Hawk war, and of the duties performed by our citizens in that contest, are too voluminous for our present purpose, and may well form an interesting chapter hereafter in the proceedings of this society.

During three succeeding years after the close of this war, emigration to this valley was large and on the increase, and our citizens were earnestly engaged in literally fulfilling the primeval command to "multiply and subdue the earth," or at least, this part of it.

They were also preparing for the great work of changing their political condition of territorial dependence to the independent position of a State in the Union. But while engaged, in these pursuits, we were again called to arms to defend our soils from the unlawful claims and threatening aggressions of Ohio.

It is customary in these days, when the whole thing is settled and the danger gone by, to smile when the Toledo war is named, and to regard it as a "tempest in a tea-pot." This only proves entire ignorance of the merits of that

contest. There was an unquestionable attempt made by the *authorities* of Ohio, and in this remark we do not by any means include the whole people of that State, backed by a formidable array of force, to plunder from our Territory the only secure harbor on our southern border, and a large tract of valuable land. Plundering is a strong term, but we have no milder word that will properly apply to this act of the Legislature and Governor of Ohio.

The boundary of the Territory of Michigan was clearly defined by an act of Congress, so far back as 1805, which had never been amended, and which left the disputed tract in Michigan. But Ohio, not with the sanction of Congress, but by the action of her own convention, extended her boundaries so as to include the long narrow strip in question, provided, as expressly stated by her own convention, at the time, "Congress agreed thereto."

Seven or eight times during a period of thirty years, and down to the very time of our contest, Ohio had solicited Congress to sanction her claim, or, in plainer language, to gratify her ambition for territorial aggrandisement, and Congress had, as repeatedly, refused to do so. In the mean time the land, including the harbor at Toledo, was in possession of Michigan. Our towns, counties, and public roads were all arranged within the territory unlawfully claimed by Ohio, to suit the boundary established by Congress. Such was the strength of our title that the Attorney General of the United States, in an opinion written and published at the request of President Jackson, declared it unquestionable, and the venerable John Quincy Adams, on the floor of the House of Representatives, in a strong protest, also declared that it would be a gross violation of the pledged faith of the nation to take this land from a feeble Territory and give it to a powerful State.

But when was unscrupulous ambition ever arrested by simple appeals to the eternal principles of justice and right? Governor Lucas, by virtue of an act of the Ohio Legislature, passed in 1835, called out a body of his militia to protect the Commissioners appointed to survey the boundary line, and to take possession of the "disputed territory" on behalf of Ohio, by force, if resisted.

Information soon reached Tecumseh, by express, that the Commissioners of Ohio were actually running the boundary line on our southern border, at the west end of the "disputed territory," and had, by a rapid movement, proceeded as far east as about fourteen miles due south of Adrian. Affidavit of the facts having been made by the express before a magistrate, agreeable to the provisions of an act of our Legislative Council, passed February 12th, 1835, entitled "An act to prevent the exercise of foreign jurisdiction within the limits of the Territory of Michigan," The Sheriff of our county, James Patchin, being sick, Deputy Sheriff Colonel William McNair, assisted by General Brown, who was the Agent of our Territory to watch the proceedings of Ohio, soon gathered a *posse*. Among them, besides Brown and McNair, were Stillman Blanchard, John Robinson, Moses Wright, Sumner Spofford, O. Hough, Benjamin Baxter, and about twenty more whose names are forgotten. The *posse* was strengthened in Adrian by a few recruits, mustering in all about forty armed men, who, by a rapid march, surprised a division of the surveying party of Ohio, with their military escort, while comfortably refreshing themselves in a house in the wilderness, owned by a man named Phillips. They had not the least suspicion that the Wolverines were on their trail.

While our *posse* quietly surrounded the house Colonel McNair and Judge Blanchard entered. The Judge, with his customary politeness, took of his cap, and after making his best bow, civilly requested them to surrender to his friend, Colonel McNair, Sheriff of Lenawee County. Assuming a belligerent attitude, Colonel Hawkins fiercely demanded by what authority they presumed to arrest the legal officers of the powerful State of Ohio. Judge Blanchard immediately replied, "By the authority of the Legislative and Executive power of Michigan;" and in order to make it more emphatic, in a loud voice, so that the outsiders might hear him, Colonel McNair exclaimed, "By virtue of the *posse* of Wolverines here present we will arrest you." In an instant the Ohioans leveled their pieces and threatened to shoot our two friends. At this critical moment the *posse* gave a shout that took the pluck out of the invaders, they made a dash for the door and took to their heels, having learned, perhaps, from Hudibras, that

"He who fights and runs away,
May live to fight another day,
But he who is in battle slain
Will never live to fight again."

As they were fleeing for the woods a few guns fired over their heads, by order of Gen Brown, brought some of them to a stand. The surveyor and eight of the party were captured and brought to Tecumseh, to be dealt with according to law.

The Ohio commissioners were at the time in another house, not far from that of Phillips. They with the remainder of the armed force, frightened at the report of fire-arms, left their friends to take care of themselves and fled into the woods where they could not be found. Thus ended the first scene of this border drama.

The second was played at Maumee, and is well described by Colonel Hascall, who witnessed the performance, in the following extract of a letter we will take the liberty of reading:—

MONROE, April 28, 1835.

DEAR SIR:—I have just returned to this place from Ohio, having left here on Saturday last, with dispatches from the Executive of Michigan to His Excellency, Robert Lucas, Governor of Ohio. I found him at Maumee, accompanied by a military force, consisting of about five hundred men, commanded by a Colonel Brush. I immediately learned from the Governor that the object of this great military array was for the protection of the Ohio Commissioners, who were then engaged in running the line in dispute between Ohio and Michigan, which he was determined should be run whatever might be the consequences; to use his own language—"peacefully if he could—forcibly if he must."

About this time one of the Commissioners arrived, bringing intelligence that he had made his escape from an armed force, supposed to be the Sheriff and his posse from the county of Lenawee; that soon after he started he heard the report of guns, and supposed the most of his party were taken or killed. * * * * * Soon after another of the Commissioners arrived with a more favorable report, that the Commissioners had succeeded in making their escape, and but nine of the party were arrested, among whom were three

Colonels, viz : Fletcher, Scott, and Hawkins. Colonel Hawkins is also a member of the Senate of that State. This was unexpected to His Excellency, for he had just stated to the United States Commissioner and myself that not one of the men would be taken alive, and that he had sent a surgeon and assistants to take charge of the wounded and dead.

As much as it is to be regretted that Ohio will even attempt to enforce the act of her Legislature, extending her jurisdiction over a part of our Territory, and that after being advised by the law officer of the General Government that the same is unconstitutional, still I confess I was somewhat amused at witnessing the safe arrival of General Taylor, (one of the Commissioners,) faint for your own amusement at a General making his escape from a powerful enemy—that is, the Tecumseh posse—through a most dismal swamp, the water most of the way, up to his middle, for the distance of twenty-five miles, in the dead of night—and you will be able to form a distant idea of the *mortal appearance* presented by General Taylor on his arrival at Maumee. Before I left Maumee it was generally understood that an order was issued for ten thousand men.

Thus the curtain closed over the second scene. This eventful drama was now transferred to Toledo, where the third scene was played out.

Governor Lucas declared that a court should be organized at Toledo, on a certain day, to extend the civil jurisdiction of Ohio over the "disputed territory," and that he would have on the ground 10,000 armed men from Southern Ohio, if required to protect the sittings of the court.

Michigan, on the other hand, by order of her Governor, a day or two before the expected arrival of the troops from Ohio, sent to Toledo a detachment of 1,500 as determined men as ever shouldered a musket or fired a rifle, under the command of the now venerable President of this Association, General Joseph W. Brown.


As commander of the forces of Michigan in the Black Hawk expedition, General Brown had acquitted himself to the entire satisfaction of the Territorial and National authorities. As commander of the Toledo expedition he performed his duties equally well, and secured all that was designed by the expedition, which was to prevent the Executive of Ohio from trampling upon the rights of the people of Michigan.

Having learned that something more than braggadocio was required to scare the Wolverines of Michigan into submission to his boasted "million of freemen," Governor Lucas halted his troops outside of the coveted territory, and without the range of our fire, which movement was speedily followed by the return of the militia of Ohio to their homes, and also terminated the brilliant military career of that renowned warrior and commander of the army and navy of a great State, Governor Robert Lucas, of Ohio. And thus ended the third scene of the drama.

The fourth and last scene was played in the halls of our National Congress. What Ohio could not obtain by threats of violence, she secured by her political strength and by legislative intrigue. Ohio, with her twelve votes in Congress, was politically strong; Michigan, without a vote, was politically weak. The disgraceful scenes were then witnessed in our National Capitol of yielding to the arrogant demands of Ohio, and "breaking," in the language of that noble old man, John Quincy Adams, "the nation's plighted faith to the toil-worn pioneers of Michigan." When the act was consummated, despoiling us of our lawful territory, universal indignation prevailed in Michigan, especially among the citizens of this valley, who were more immediately interested in the result. The feeling was openly expressed in no measured terms. "We had a right to regard it as a sacrifice of political weakness to political strength, of principle to power, and of common honesty to degraded partisan expediency."

There was no merit in the act of Congress giving us in exchange the Lake Superior district, for this was before the discovery of its wealth of mines and minerals, and it was regarded on all hands as almost worthless. But it was an admission on the part of Congress that the attitude of Michigan was right, and as such a public tribute of respect for a people who had so manfully defended their soil from the attempted aggression of a powerful neighbor."

BLISSFIELD;

HE following sketch of Blissfield was written by James T. Kedzie, of that place: The town of Blissfield, Lenawee County, originally comprised township seven south, of range five east. At its organization in 1827, the towns of Palmyra, Ogdon, Riga, and the territory south to the Maumee river were in its boundaries. The organization of the above towns, at a later period, left us with only a territory six miles square, which was covered with a heavy growth of timber—black walnut, hickory, whitewood, etc. William Kedzie, of Delhi, Delaware County, New York, entered at the United States Land Office, at Monroe, May 3d, 1824, the first lands sold by the Government in this town, on Sections twelve, thirteen and fourteen. Henry Bliss, from Monroe County, made his

purchase June 19th, on Sections twenty-nine and thirty,—moved his family into the town in December of the same year,—and was the first inhabitant. It was this circumstance that gave its name to the town. Gideon West, from the same place, made his purchase June 28th, 1823, on Section twenty-nine, and moved on with his family in January, 1825, and for a time was the only neighbor to Mr. Bliss, nearer than ten miles. George Giles purchased his farm on February 23d, 1825, but did not move his family on until the spring of 1826, when he located on Section thirty-one. Almond Harrison, from Berkshire, Massachusetts, made his purchase September 17th, 1825, on Section thirty, and began immediately to chop and clear, preparatory to building a log house, in which to put a young wife from his native State. Samuel Buck, a young man, late of Ohio, purchased a farm on Section twenty-nine, October 29th, 1825, and believing the injunction that "it is not good that man should be alone," chose a *helpmeet* in the person of Miss Margaret Frary, (step-daughter of Gideon West,) and when he had prepared his cage, was married November 23d, 1826. This was the first wedding, but not the only one; on the same day Mr. George Stout was married to Miss Delight Bliss. There was no one authorized to perform the marriage ceremony nearer than Monroe, and therefore they had to send a messenger to that place (thirty miles) on foot, (no horses in the town) expressly to call Loren Marsh, a Justice of the Peace in and for that county, it being taken for granted that he could officiate in the unorganized counties of the Territory.

On May 14th, 1826, William Kedzie, with his family, was landed on the pier in La Plaisance Bay, from the steamer Niagara,—no communication with the shore, not even a canoe, and no shelter to protect them. The floor was so covered with boxes of merchandize that only a small spot near the edge could be found where his wife and children could lie down, and there he had to watch all night for fear they would fall into the deep water. The next day in the afternoon a small sail vessel came down the river, on which they were conveyed to the landing near the village of Monroe. The next October, after building a log house, and before the doors and windows were in, they moved into the woods five miles from any inhabitant, and were greeted on the first night by a jubilee of wolves. Early in the spring of 1827 quite an immigration came into the town, namely: Benjamin and Daniel H. Clark, Jonas Ray, Anthony McKey, and Benjamin Tibbitts in the north part, and Isaac and Samuel Randall, Morris Burch, Ebenezer Gilbert, Edward Calkins, Jacob and John Lane, John Preston, Ezra W. Goff and his sons, Whiting, Timothy B., and Williard, who were all voters, in the south part.

May 28th, 1827, the first town meeting was held at the house of Hervey Bliss, for the election of township officers, at which time William Kedzie was chosen Supervisor; Ezra W. Goff, Town Clerk; A. McKey, Jacob Lane, Moses Valentine, Assessors; Almond Harrison, John Lane, A. McKey, Commissioners of Highways; Samuel Randall, Constable and Collector; Gideon West and George Giles, Overseers of the Poor; William Kedzie, Isaac Randall, and Sam. Randall, Fence Viewers; Hervey Bliss and George Giles, Pound Masters; and William Kedzie, Hervey Bliss, George Giles, and Benjamin Clark, Pathmasters. There were twenty offices to fill, and only thirteen candidates. The result was, all were elected, some to two, and in one instance a man filled three offices. That little band of pioneers, who then laid the foundation of this town, have all passed away, except Almond Harrison, who still remains the connecting link between the first and second generations.

The first minister that visited our town was Rev. J. A. Baughman, of the M. E. Church, in the fall of 1827.

The first birth occurred on October 3d, 1827, and was that of Lucinda, daughter of the first married couple. The first boy born was George Giles, Jr., on October 23d, 1827.

The first school house, built of logs, in the summer of 1827, stood on what is now the north-east corner of Adrian and Monroe streets, in our village. The first school master was Chester Stuart, of Monroe, at a salary of \$43 per month and "board found." The names of Thomas F. Dodge and George W. Ketchum are also among those of the early teachers of our young Wolverines. The first school house at Kedzie's Grove, in the north part of the town, was built in the fall of 1829, and the first and only teacher was Miss Caroline Amelia Bixby, of the town of Logan (now Adrian.)

As early as February 22d, 1829, the First Presbyterian Church was organized by Rev. Alanson Darwin, of Tecumseh.

The first State or Territorial election was held on July 11th, 1831, when twenty-nine votes were given for "Delegate to Congress." Austin E. Wing received fourteen votes, Samuel W. Dexter nine, and John R. Williams six.

WOODSTOCK;

THE following sketch of Woodstock was written by Alvin C. Osborn, of that place: In June, 1824, my father, Jesse Osborn, in company with my uncle, Alvin Chase, and others of our old neighbors, left Enfield, Thompsons County, New York, to go viewing the southern part of the State of Ohio. On their way, in crossing Lake Erie in a schooner, they fell in with many others on a like errand, to find a place to make a future

land, and as the Territory of Michigan was just being surveyed and coming into market, and as it seemed to offer greater advantages, they changed their course and came to Michigan. After stopping a few days at Monroe, they hired a Frenchman to act as a guide. Then they traveled west until they came to Ridgway, where most of them after going back to Monroe purchased land; however, not one of them ever settled on it. A short time after another company, among whom was General Brown and Masgrove Evans, came on as far as Tecumseh and purchased land. And my father, hearing of its being a better location for a town, and having better water privileges, also came to Tecumseh and bought land on Evans' Creek, in the west part of the new village of Tecumseh, north of where Judge Sax's house now stands. My father then went back to the State of New York, sold his property there, and in August of the year 1824 started back to Michigan, taking his wife and family of six children in a two-horse covered wagon. Some of the children are still living. We came to Buffalo with our team, where we shipped on board of a schooner for Detroit. On our trip up the lake we met a steamboat going down on her first trip. As we came up the Detroit River we were shown the residence of Governor Cass, on the borders of the city, it being a double log house, and after we landed I saw Governor Cass himself, and well do I remember how he looked then. From Detroit we started for Monroe, making the trip in one week; the French inhabitants told us that our team was the first that had passed over the road since the war of 1812. The covering was all gone from the bridges, the stringers only remaining; some streams were dried, and some of the bridges we covered by cutting round poles. At Monroe the only vacant house we could find was up the river about five miles, on the north side of the city; it was a log house, and it had not been inhabited since the war, on account, as the French told us, of a woman and five children having been murdered there by the Indians; the blood stains were yet upon the floor. At the town of Raisinville we stopped for a short time, and with a part of our goods, leaving the rest with my oldest sister, then about twelve years of age, we went on to Tecumseh; passing up the river on the north side, we found it settled for ten miles above Monroe by the French, from this on to Tecumseh it was one vast wilderness; we were six days in going from Raisinville to Tecumseh, twenty-five miles. We remained about six weeks at Tecumseh, during which time we rolled up the body of a log house. I well remember seeing my mother and some Indians helping at the work—help being very scarce at that time. We then went back to Monroe, where we staid through the winter of 1824 and '25, my father working with his team to support his family. In the spring of 1825 we moved back to Tecumseh, and lived in a shanty near where the depot now stands. We soon finished off our house by putting on eaves made of shakes, and hanging up a blanket for a door. We moved in in the summer.


We raised some corn, and there being no mill to grind it, we made a mortar by hollowing the end of a white log, which served the purpose of a mill. In the fall of 1825 we sowed the first wheat that was sown in Lenawee County; we cut the wheat about the first day of July, 1826. My father took it to the mill, and from it was made the first flour ever ground in Lenawee County, out of which Mrs. General Brown made cake for the first Fourth of July celebration, held in Tecumseh in the year 1826. In the winter of 1826 and '27 my father went to Coldwater with two teams, to carry some provisions to the surveyors, who were running out the land into townships and sections, it being the first team that was ever there or west of Tecumseh. He went with a span of horses and a yoke of oxen; a hired man by the name of David Hawk drove one of the teams and my father the other. It took them eleven days to make the trip, and when they got to Hog Creek, about ten miles from Coldwater, they unyoked their oxen and turned them out to browse; there being no hay, the oxen went back home, which grieved them much at the time, but it probably was the means of saving their lives. They went on to Coldwater with their horse team, and then came back and took the other load, which I obtained then several days. The weather was very cold; it snowed and blowed all the time after they had left Coldwater to return home; so much snow had fallen that it covered up their tracks, and as they did not mark any trees when they went out, it was almost impossible to find their way back. But they finally reached home all safe and sound, following the tracks of the oxen, which had gone before them.

The first white woman in the county was the young wife of Peter Bauson, who, with her husband, was in the employ of Messrs. Evans & Crane. The next was Abbie Evans, wife of Masgrove Evans, and sister to General Joseph Brown. She was a very estimable lady, of the Quaker order. Messrs. Brown and Evans bought the land where Tecumseh now stands. They built the first mill, and did much for the place; they were very kind hearted men, and excellent neighbors. Mr. Brown kept the first hotel at the lower end of the town, near the court house. The first school kept in the county was taught by George Taylor. The first Sheriff in the county was James Pachin; the first blacksmith was Pomeroy Stetson; the first doctor was Caleb Noble Omsby; and a better man never lived. Stetson and Omsby both moved to Adrian. The first goods were sold by a Mr. Wolcott. The first miller was Silveus Buckman, the first settler of Cambridge township. The first minister of the gospel was Elder Darwin, of the Presbyterian church. Soon after the settlement of Tecumseh was commenced the settlement of Adrian was begun. I remember among the people who stopped at my father's house, on their way to Adrian, was Mr. A. J. Comstock and Mr. Bixby, with their families.

In the fall of 1824, while at Tecumseh, my mother became uneasy about my sister that was left at Raisinville, among strangers that could hardly speak or understand a word of English. She started to ride to Raisinville with a Mr. Wolcott, taking with her the two youngest children. When about two miles west of Big Prairie, twelve miles from any habitation, her horse began to stagger. He left my mother there with her two children, and went back to Tecumseh to get another wagon; when he arrived there it was too late to return. He then informed my father where my mother was, and he started on horse back to find her. But it became so dark ere long that he was obliged to halt and wait for the moon to rise; he finally came up with my mother, and found that she, hearing the sound of horses feet, had loaded the gun which was in the wagon, and was prepared for any emergency.

In the winter of 1825, while my father was gone to Monroe, there came to our house one day, about sundown, a dozen Indians, who asked for something to eat. My mother showed them a tin pan about two-thirds full of corn, and made them understand that was all she had. This seemed to satisfy them. She set the corn down, and one of the Indians commenced putting it in his blanket. My mother seized a pair of old-fashioned fire tongs, drew them over her head, and told him to lay it down. He laid it down, looked up at her, and said, "Me she shin, chemis coman," which means, good white woman.

C A M B R I D G E ;

OR the following we are indebted to Mr. F. A. Dewey: This town lies in the north-western part of this County and is very well known at the present day, as an excellent tract of land for the production of grain and stock, excelled by none, in beef cattle, sheep and swine, which are of the choicest grades and very numerous.

I would here mention that the north half of the town is somewhat of a rolling nature, interspersed with many beautiful, clear lakes bountifully supplied with fish, the soil is generally of a sand and gravel loam, interspersed with lime, and is well adapted for wheat; the timber is mostly what is termed oak openings.

The south half is middling level, what was called heavy timbered land, abounding with large and stately oaks, majestic black-walnut, and an exhaustless supply of white wood, sugar maple and ash. There are two streams of water, the Wolf Creek and Squaw Creek; the latter derived its name from the many Indian corn fields on its banks. The above were in the primitive state of nature before the woodman's axe had leveled the forest when the Indian, the wolf, elk, bear and the deer were entitled to the territory.

In the year 1825 the great military road from Detroit to Chicago was surveyed through the north part of the town, a number of years before a white inhabitant had erected his cabin there.

The records at the United States land office, show that John Gilbert, of Monroe County, New York, entered the first land bought in town, 160 acres on Section four, in the month of June, 1825. The second lot was purchased four years later, in 1829, by Isaac Powers, of Washtenaw County, Michigan Territory, consisting of eighty acres on Section three; purchase made December 1st. The third, by Charles Blackmar, of Lenawee County, Michigan Territory, July 11th, 1831. Mr. Blackmar was the first actual settler having, erected the only house in the town-ship, two years before buying the land, where the traveler ever found a hearty welcome, and was refreshed with the choicest selections from the forest. I will not omit to do justice to the memory of one I knew so well. He was a true specimen of the undaunted men who led the way to this great, growing, and now populous county, erecting his house, with the aid of the Indians, fifteen miles from the nearest settlement, where, with his wife and children, he was monarch of all. His horses and cattle roamed at will for miles around. His home was a stranger to everything but generous friendship and true hospitality. But when the scourge of the world, called cholera, was wafted from the Eastern to the Western Hemisphere, in its desolate tract the high and low were made to mourn. This black cloud of an epidemic went over our fertile county. In the remote and primitive home of Colonel Charles Blackmar a stranger died with the disease; the landlord was also taken, and died in less thirty hours. Thus passed away, in August, 1834, a noble and good man, who had lived to see his isolated home in the midst of a thriving settlement.

"His labors are o'er—he is gone to his rest,
To the throne of his Maker, the home of the blest."

The second great enterprise or public improvement made in our town, was the LaPleasant Bay Turnpike, via Tecumseh, intersecting the Chicago road at Cambridge, which was laid out in 1832. Immediately after that roads were opened,—the woodman's axe was heard in the place of the howl of the wolf and the bear; the cheerful log house was erected in all directions—the ground was fitted for the seed corn and wheat, and thus prosperity, with the true and generous hospitality which prevails in all new settlements, united the good citizens in bonds of friendship and good will to all.

The first school house was erected in 1834, in the east part of the town, and a school was also taught in the west part, at the house of Mr. Pratt, in the summer of 1837,—scholars coming the distance of four miles to learn to read

and spell. In 1836 the first post-office was established, and Abram Butterfield was post-master. The same year a saw mill was built on the far-famed Wolf Creek, which in speculative times was reported in Eastern cities as navigable for the largest class of steamboats from Lake Erie to the lakes in Cambridge. City lots bordering on the stream sold for fabulous prices,—wild-cat money was then circulated in uncut reams.

The first ministers of the gospel were Elder Davidson, of the Methodist society, and Rev. William N. Lyster, of the Episcopal Church. The latter moved from Tecumseh, built his house on the banks of Sand Lake, amid the towering oaks, where the secluded eagle had made her nest.

The first store was opened by Hart & T. H. Mosher, in the year 1836. Mr. Mosher continues the business now, and I think we can safely say he has sold merchandise for a longer period of time than any one in the county.

The first town meeting was held in 1836, at the house of Abram Butterfield. Isaac Powers was chosen Supervisor; Paul Geddes Town Clerk and Justice of the Peace; James Geddes Treas-urer. There were twenty-six voters, and they were very much united. At this election Elder Tripp voted an Abolition ticket, and made the remark: "Gentlemen, this is the first egg laid for this town; it will annually increase." We have seen the progress, until the United States have been shaken to the center. For the four first years Isaac Powers was elected Supervisor, and in 1840, the pioneers being fully up to the spirit of political strife, the south woods men came out and Sylvester Walker was elected by a large majority, since which, with the exception of three terms, the whole Democratic ticket has prevailed.

Among the early incidents of the forest life we will mention two. Late in the fall of 1836 Mrs. Onsted, in passing through the woods, nearly a mile from any house, met a large panther who disputed the right of way, but her courage was equal to the emergency, and she drove the "varmint" up a tree. A short time after that a large and powerful bear put himself in the way of a few boys; his jaws were already fastened to a boys neck; the squealing was tremendous. No men were within a mile. Mrs. Owens, equal to any emergency, ran with the first ready weapon, a pitch-fork, and plunged it deep into the side of the huge monster; the boy was left staggering; the bloody trail of the bear was followed by hunters, who shot him. His weight was nearly four hundred pounds.

In the year 1838 three of the Loveland family were killed by lightning.

Of the first settlers, we can say they were families of enterprise and perseverance. With Colonel Charles Blackmar, Mr. Creg, and the Smith's on the north side, Elder Tripp, Mr. Wheeler, and Rev. William N. Lyster on the east side; Mr. Morton, Mr. Rogers, and Mr. Sparks on the south side; Mr. Pratt and Mr. Redfield on the west side. The latter lived on the highest lands of the township.

The town has had the honor of sending three men to the State Legislature, viz: Albert Wilcox, Thomas H. Mosher, and Sylvester Walker. A State Senator was also nominated, but, in the political party conflicts, lost the election. In the quiet calling of the County Agricultural Society, C. H. Dewey has been twice elected President.

For lawyers, Cambridge has never seemed to present a very inviting field, whether because of its remoteness from the county seat or because of the high moral and consequent peaceable character of its inhabitants, I do not know. Until proof to the contrary is furnished we may assume the latter.

CANANDAIGUA:

IN the summer of 1833 there was a company of gentlemen, four in number, having heard of Tiffu's River, as laid down on the map (now called Bean Creek,) came to Adrian for the purpose of visiting the river and ascertaining the situation of water powers, if any on the stream, and employed Noah Norton (who had a compass, and was well acquainted with section lines, etc.,) to officiate as pilot, and prepared themselves with suitable provisions, frying-pan, tin kettle, etc., for a few days tramp. I had seen but little of Michigan then, and proposed to go with them, and made the arrangements by paying my proportion of the outfit, and started, on the 4th of July, by way of Mudge's Corners (so called) about three miles south. Mr. Bradish and some others had located there. From thence we started on an under-brushed path to Samuel Jordon's, who had located near the south bend of the River Raisin, and the end of civilization. We then started for Bean Creek, by compass, and after traveling about two miles we struck an old deep-trodden Indian trail, which led us through to the creek where Canandaigua village is now

situated. It was an oak opening of about 150 acres; trees scattering, and little underbrush; very level and covered with flowers of every hue, the most beautiful spot I ever saw in the wilderness, situated between Bean Creek and Bear Creek, one emptying into the Maumee River and the other into the River Raisin. We put up at an old Indian shanty. It rained, and the mosquitoes seemed as though they thought we were intruders, and meant to have every drop of our hearts blood. Our shanty leaked, and we had a poor night's rest. I looked around in the morning, while the others were preparing our breakfast, and found a section corner. We were on the south-east corner of section one, township south, range one east. We then started, taking the windings of the creek down to Silver Creek, a little below where Morenci is now situated, but found nothing to suit the water power men, so we returned to our old bark shanty, and the next day to Adrian. Two of the men were not satisfied—thought there must be some fall on Bean Creek before entering the Maumee River, so they hired horses and Mr. Norton, and went down the creek into the edge of Ohio, and on some of the wet prairies lost their lines, and it being near night they put up at the "World's Hotel," having the canopy of heaven for a roof. One of the horses got out of the stable and could not be found, so they came back to Adrian, cursed the country, paid Isaac French \$60 for the horse and left. In November the horse found its way back to Adrian as fat as a seal.

In 1834 Fairfield was set off from Blissfield, embracing the townships west, and in 1835 Seneca was set off from Fairfield, and we held our town meeting at Jacob Baker's, polling twenty-six votes. There were more voters, but they had business of more importance than town meetings. In 1836 Medina was set off from Seneca, being township eight south, range one east, and a portion of nine south, extending to the State line, and so remains. Gershom, Bennett, and Haganman moved in with their families in December, 1833, and being above want, hired some men, and made quite an opening, and in the spring of 1834 put in a number of acres to spring crops. It was the first opening, the first log cabin, and the first families in that section of the country. In the spring of 1834 Cook, Hotchkiss, John Knapp, Charles Prishy, and some others moved in with their families, and in the summer Simon D. Wilson, Jacob Baker, Daniel Salisbury, E. Walworth, and several others came in with their families, and emigration increased rapidly.

In 1833, by the memorial of our Governor and others, Congress appropriated \$10,000 for cutting out and making passable a road from Vistula to the Indiana line. Commissioners were appointed, and commenced the work in 1834, and finished in 1835, called the "Territorial Road," which encouraged many to locate and settle near the road, among whom were Paul Raymond, E. J. Baldwin, Jephtha Whitman, Hiram Wakefield, Dennis Wakefield, Orville Woodworth, James McCriller, and many others. The road ran through a large section of excellent land. Mr. Cavander moved on his premises, and in March, 1835, I went there and built me a log house, twenty by thirty feet, took my lumber from this place, and moved my family April 16th. Soon after I made an addition of twelve feet to one side for a cook-room and dining-room, and came to Adrian to purchase some groceries,—whisky and brandy,—and told them I was going to keep tavern. They thought that was a novel idea, and laughed at me, and had their own fun about it. I told them all I wanted of them was to send on the land lookers; and in June and July I had more customers than I could attend to, frequently from twelve to twenty at a time, and one night thirty-five land lookers.

In less than six months every eighty acre lot fit for farming purposes, within ten miles, was taken up by actual settlers, with the exception of a few small tracts taken by speculators, and the most of them from the Eastern States, men of talent and enterprise. I challenge this State, or any other, to produce as many public men with so few inhabitants, within five miles north and south, and two miles east and west, which includes the two small villages of Medina and Canandaigua. Medina had the honor of sending Laurin Hotchkiss to the Legislature one term, Ebenezer Daniels one term, and one of the committee to frame our State Constitution, and Artemus Allen one term. In Canandaigua, Philo Wilson two terms, and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and Dr. Rufus Kibbe a Senatorial term, and within the limits above described, F. J. Haganman one term, Noah K. Green one term, and Dr. James Sweeney one term. The records will show, all in fifteen years, and between 1835 and 1850, and the whole population on the limits described did not exceed 1,000 at any one time. The most of the public men named have lived in log cabins.

We are indebted to Samuel Gregg for the above facts.

HUDSON;

THE following short sketch of early times in Hudson we take from quite an extended history of the place, written by James Laird:—"What is now called Hudson, was first called Bean Creek, then Lanesville, until finally, by common consent, it took on the name given to the Township by Mr. Hiram Kidder, from the fact that Dr. Hudson, of Geneva, N. Y., was one of the first land owners in the town. The first settler in the township, then with Madison, Dover and Palmyra, forming one long township called Lenawee, was Hiram Kidder, from Yates County, N. Y., and his wife and family. Mr. Kidder reached Bean Creek (so called from the quantity of bean timber that grew on its banks,) October 29th, 1833. He took up about 500 acres of land.

In 1836, the settlement was formally recognized as Lanesville, and a commission issued by Amos Kendall, Post-master General of the U. S., to B. H. Lane as post-master. In 1840 the Indians were sent away. In 1841 a schoolhouse was built on the west side, 24x40. It was also used by the Congregational, Methodist and other religious societies as a church. In the fall of '41 the ribbons (or 2x4 pieces of hard maple timber) were laid and cars drawn by horses came to Lanesville. In 1842-3 the first locomotive crossed Bean Creek. It was called the Comet. Hudson was organized as a village in 1853. The first newspaper published in Hudson was the *Scout* by T. D. Montgomery.

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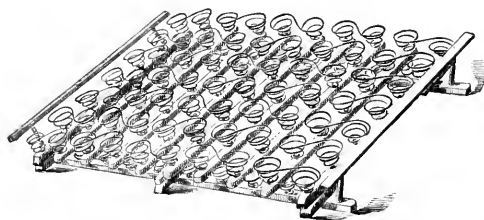
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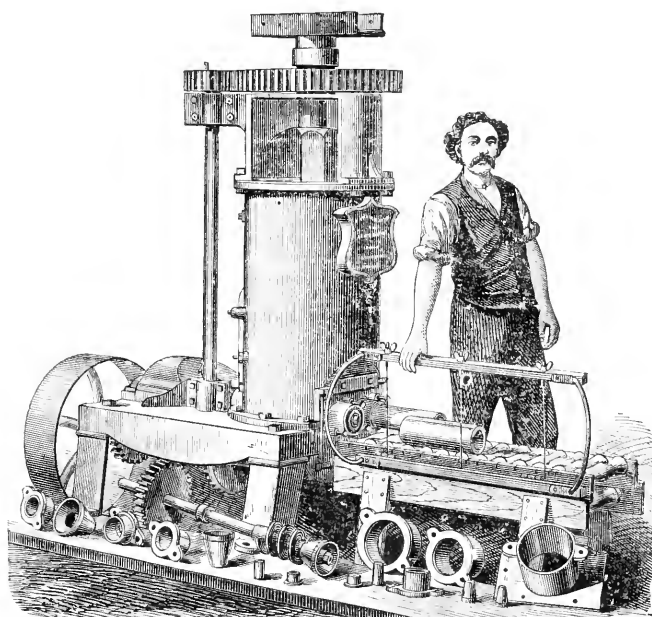
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THE LARGEST AND BEST ASSORTED STOCK OF

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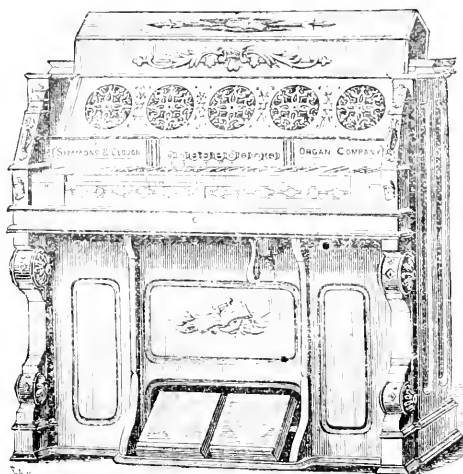
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A Full Sized, Rosewood, First Class Piano, with all Modern Improvements.
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This Combination cannot be Exceeded by any Makers on earth.

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THE LARGEST, BEST AND
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FIRST DOOR WEST OF MASONIC TEMPLE.

I also have a Large and Complete Stock of

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I KEEP A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF EVERYTHING ^{FOR} FOUND IN A FIRST CLASS GROCERY.

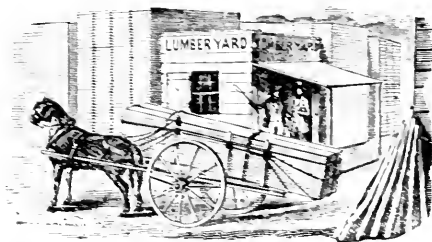
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ALL DESCRIPTIONS OF CARRIAGES ON HAND OR MADE TO ORDER.

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REPAIRING IN ALL ITS BRANCHES
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A Full and Fresh Stock of

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PATTERN BONNETS AND HATS, FLOWERS, VELVETS AND RIBBONS,

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WHITE GOODS, HOSIERY & GLOVES,

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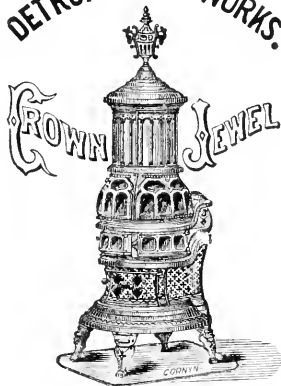
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Is the place you have heard everybody talking about as being the best place to buy

Hardware of all Descriptions.

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As the handsomest and best Coal Stove made, and to the MANSARD OCCIDENT and ONWARD as the best Cook Stoves.

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WE KEEP THE BEST CLOTHES WRINGERS,

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AT BOTTOM PRICES. COME AND SEE US, WE DESIRE AN ACQUAINTANCE.

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We do not Attempt to Humbug any Particular Class by Pretending to Make Discrimination in their Favor, but will Sell to

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I REQUEST ESPECIAL ATTENTION TO MY STOCK OF FINE STATIONERY.

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AND YOU CAN RELY UPON THE QUALITY.

WE also have a full line of CROCKERY, (both Fine and Coarse,) Plated Ware, Castors, Forks and Spoons, Tea Sets, German Silver Spoons, Knives and Forks, (fine and common,) Lamps, an immense stock of Glass Ware. We offer particular inducements to young people just commencing house keeping; we can furnish their house from cellar to garret, saving them largely in prices, and the trouble of going to three or four stores to find what they want.

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BEST IN THE WORLD,
KEPT ONLY BY C. A. CONKLIN.

I have now the largest stock of Wood Coffins, Metallic

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Amount of Stock or Price. A visit to my Ware rooms will convince
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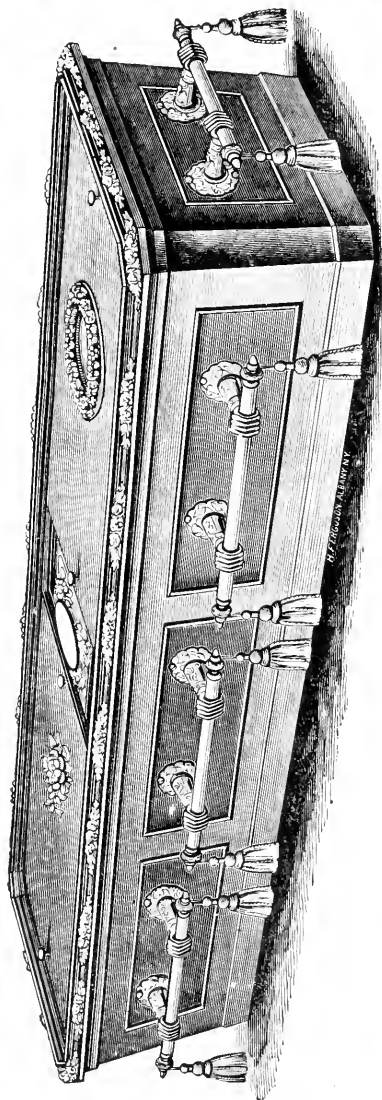
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*Particular Attention Given to the Preservation of
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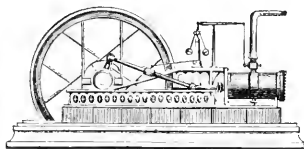
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CLOCKS, WATCHES, &c.

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READY MADE CLOTHING,

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ONE PAIR LADIES FINE SHOES OR \$5 CASH.

To the 2d, One Pair Misses Shoes. To the 3d, One Pair Gent's Slippers. To the 4th, and everybody else,

GOOD GOODS AT LOW FIGURES.

The solution to the above must be enclosed in sealed envelopes, which will be numbered as received, and on the 1st day of December, 1875, the envelopes will be opened and the prizes awarded to the successful persons.

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FALL AND WINTER BOOTS AND SHOES

Which we propose to sell at prices 10 per cent. BELOW THE LOWEST, and warrant our goods. We are bound to sell. Come here before you buy and see for yourself. Bring your solutions to the Rebus and get the prizes at the Boot and Shoe Store of

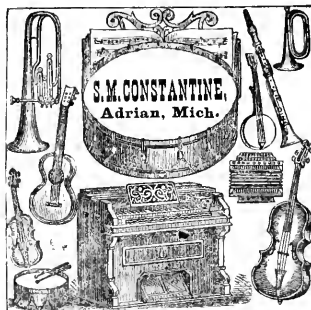
BARSE & KING.

S. M. CONSTANTINE,

CONSTANTINE,

—THE—

PIANO MAN.



ORGAN MAN.

—THE—

CONSTANTINE,

72 MAUMEE STREET.

New 7 1-8 Octave Rosewood Pianos from.....\$275 to 1,500
Organs from.....50 " 1,000
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ALL OTHER GOODS IN PROPORTION.

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New Organs Rented With Privilege of Purchase on

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At one-fifth its value down, and at two and one-half per cent. interest on honest cash value.

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CHICKERING, HALLET, DAVIS & Co., AND HAINES PIANOS,

MASON & HAMLIN, PELOUBET, PELTON & Co., AND KIMBALL ORGANS.

All warranted from the factory in writing for five years. Pianos sold on monthly payments.

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PIANOS AND ORGANS TUNED AND REPAIRED.

Remember you save 25 per cent. by Purchasing of me direct.

S. M. CONSTANTINE, THE PIANO MAN,

72 MAUMEE STREET.

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DEALER IN

HATS, CAPS,

LADIES AND GENT'S

FURS, GLOVES & MITTENS,

ROBES OF ALL KINDS.

LADIES AND GENT'S

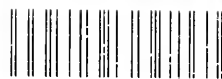
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Silk Hats Fitted to the Head and Repaired.

LADIES FURS REPAIRED.

MOTTO---"CHEAP FOR CASH."

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